

at-o-my² (ät'ä-mä) *n.*, *pl.* -mies. [*< an atomy, respelling of ANATOMY. Archaic. A giant person or a skeleton.*

a-to-nal (ä-tö'nal) *adj.* Mus. Having apparently no key or tonality. — **a-to-nal-ly** *adv.*

a-to-nal-ism (ä-tö'nal-izm) *n.* Mus. 1. The lack of a tonal center or key as a principle of musical composition. 2. The theory of atonal composition.

a-to-nal-i-ty (ä-tö'nal-i-tē) *n.* A style of musical composition in which tonal center or key is disregarded.

at once *adv.* 1. At one time: SIMULTANEOUSLY. 2. Immediately *< left at once when we heard the news >*

a-tone (ä-tön') *v.* **a-toned**, **a-ton-ing**, **a-tones**. [ME *atonen*, to be reconciled *< at one*, in agreement: *at*, *at + one*, one.] — *vt.* 1. To make amends, as for a fault or sin. 2. Archaic. To agree. — *vt.* Archaic. 1. To expiate. 2. To reconcile or harmonize. 3. To conciliate: *APPEASE*. — **a-ton/a-ble**, **a-tone/a-ble** *adj.* — **a-ton'er** *n.*

A word history: The derivation of *atone*, from *at* and *one*, has been obscured somewhat by the fairly recent change in the pronunciation of *one*. *One* used to be pronounced like *own*, but since the 17th century it has been pronounced like *won*, the past tense of *win*. The older pronunciation survives in *alone*, *lone*, *lonely*, and *only* in addition to *atone* and its derivatives; the new pronunciation occurs in *once*.

a-tone-ment (ä-tön'ment) *n.* 1. Amends made for an injury or wrong: EXPIATION. 2. In the Hebrew Scriptures man's reconciliation with God after having transgressed the covenant. 3. **Atonement**. a. The redemptive life and death of Christ. b. The reconciliation of God and man thus brought about by Christ. 4. Christian Science. The radical obedience and purification, exemplified in the life of Jesus, by which humanity finds oneness with God. 5. Archaic. Reconciliation: concord.

a-ton-ic (ä-tön'ik) *adj.* [Fr. *atonique* *< Gk. atonos*. — see **ATONY**.] 1. Not accented, as words and syllables. 2. Pathol. Relating to, caused by, or marked by atony. — *n.* An unaccented word, syllable, or sound. — **at'o-nic/i-ty** (ät'ä-nis'i-tē) *n.*

at-o-ny (ät'ä-nē) *n.* [LLat. *atonia* *< Gk. atonos*, slack: *a-*, without + *tonos*, stretching, tone.] 1. Insufficient muscular tone. 2. Lack of accent or stress in phonetics.

a-top (ä-töp') *adv.* On or at the top. — *prep.* On top of. — **a-top/adj.**

-ator *suff.* [ME *-atour* *< OFr. -ator* *< Lat. -ator*: *-atus*, *-ate* + *-or*, *-or*.] One that acts in a given manner *< radiator >*

-atory *suff.* [ME *-atorius* *< Lat. -atorius*: *-atus*, *-ate* + *-orius*, *-ory*.] 1. a. Of or relating to *< perspiratory >* b. Tending to *< amendatory >* 2. One that is connected with *< reformatory >*

ATP (ät'tē'pē) *n.* [A(DENOSINE) T(RI)P(HOSPHATE).] An adenosine-derived nucleotide, C₁₀H₁₆N₅O₁₃P₃, that supplies energy to cells through its conversion to ADP.

ATP-ase (ät'tē'pē'ās) *n.* An enzyme that hydrolyzes ATP.

at-ra-bil-i-ous (ät'ä-bil'yas) also **at-ra-bil-i-ar** (bil'ē-är) *adj.* [*< Lat. atra bilis*, black bile, transl. of Gk. *melankhōlia*. — see **MELANCHOLY**.] 1. Inclined to melancholy. 2. Ill-tempered: surly. — **at-ra-bil-i-ous-ness** *n.*

A-treus (ä'trōs', ä'trē-as) *n.* [Gk.] Gk. Myth. A king of Mycenae, father of Agamemnon and Menelaus.

a-tri-a (ä'trē-ä) *n.* *pl.* *atri-a*. *var. pl.* of **ATRIUM**.

a-tri-o-ven-tric-u-lar (ä'trē-ö-vēn-trik'yä-lär) *adj.* Of or relating to the atria and the ventricles of the heart.

a-trip (ä'trip') *adj.* *adv.* Just clear of the bottom, as an anchor.

a-tri-um (ä'trē-äm) *n.*, *pl.* **a-tri-a** (ä'trē-ä) or **-ums**. [Lat. *atrium*.] 1. a. A central courtyard, as in ancient Roman houses. b. A multistoried central court, as in a hotel, often having a skylight. 2. A bodily cavity or chamber, as in the heart. — **a-tri-al** *adj.*

a-tro-cious (ä'trō'shəs) *adj.* [*< Lat. atrox, atroc*, cruel.] 1. Extremely evil or cruel: MONSTROUS *< an atrocious felony >* 2. Exceptionally bad: ABOMINABLE *< atrocious cooking >* *< atrocious rudeness >* — **a-tro-cious-ly** *adv.* — **a-tro-cious-ness** *n.*

a-tro-ci-ty (ä'trōs'i-tē) *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. Atrocious condition, quality, or behavior. 2. An atrocious action, situation, or object: OUTRAGE.

at-ro-phy (ät'rō-fē) *n.*, *pl.* -phies. [LLat. *atrophia* *< Gk. atrophos*, ill-nourished: *a-*, without + *trophē*, food.] 1. Pathol. The emaciation or wasting away of bodily tissues or organs. 2. A diminution or degeneration *< moral atrophy >* — *v.* -**phied**, -**phy-ing**, -**phies**.

— *vt.* To affect with atrophy: — *vi.* To waste away: WITHER. — **a-troph/ic** (ä'trōf'ik), **at'ro-phous** *adj.*

at-ro-pine (ät'rō-pēn', -pīn) also **at-ro-pin** (-pīn) *n.* [G. *Atropin* *< NLat. Atropa*, genus name of belladonna *< Gk. atropos*, unchangeable.] An extremely poisonous, bitter, crystalline alkaloid, C₁₇H₂₃NO₃, derived from belladonna and related plants and used to dilate the pupil of the eye and as an anesthetic and antispasmodic.

At-ro-pos (ät'rō-pōs', -pās) *n.* [Gk. *< atropos*, inexorable.] Gk. Myth. One of the three Fates.

at-tach (ä-täch') *v.* -**tached**, -**tach-ing**, -**tach-es**. [ME *attachen* *< OFr. attacher*, of Germanic orig.] — *vt.* 1. To fasten on or affix to: connect or join. 2. To connect as an adjunct or associated part. 3. To add, as a signature. 4. To ascribe or assign *< attached no importance to the incident >* 5. To bind by personal ties, as of affection or loyalty *< very attached to their pets >* 6. To appoint officially. 7. To assign

(personnel) to a military unit on a temporary basis. 8. Law. To seize (persons or property) by legal writ. — *vi.* To adhere. — **at-tach/a-ble** *adj.* — **at-tach'er** *n.*

*** SYN:** ATTACH, AFFIX, CLIP, CONNECT, COUPLE, FASTEN, FIX, MOOR, SECURE. *vi.* *core meaning:* to join one thing to another *< the hinges to which the door is attached >*. — **at-tach-ment** *n.*

at-tach-ment (ä-täch'ment) *n.* 1. The act of attaching or condition of being attached. 2. Something, as a tie, band, or fastening, that joins one thing to another. 3. A bond of affection or loyalty. 4. A supplementary part: ACCESSORY *< a vacuum cleaner with attachments >* 5. Law. a. The legal seizure of a person or property. b. The writ ordering an attachment.

at-tack (ä-täk') *v.* -**tacked**, -**tack-ing**, -**tacks**. [Fr. *attaquer* *< OFr. < OItal. attaccare*, of Germanic orig.] — *vt.* 1. To set upon with violent force. 2. To criticize strongly or in a hostile manner. 3. To start work on with purpose and vigor *< attack a backlog of orders >* 4. To begin to affect harmfully. — *vi.* To launch an attack. — *n.* 1. The act of attacking: ASSAULT. 2. The occurrence or onset of a disease. 3. The initial movement in a task or undertaking. 4. Mus. The way in which a passage or phrase is begun. — **at-tack'er** *n.*

*** SYN:** ATTACK, ASSAIL, ASSAULT, BESET, HIT, STRIKE. *v.* *core meaning:* to set upon with violent force *< enemy troops attacking our positions >*

at-tain (ä-tän') *v.* -**tained**, -**tain-ing**, -**tains**. [ME *atteignien* *< OFr. atteindre*, to reach to *< Lat. attingere*: *ad-*, to + *tangere*, to touch.] — *vt.* 1. To gain or accomplish by mental or physical effort *< attain an objective >* 2. To arrive at *< attained the mountaintop >* — *vi.* To succeed in gaining or accomplishing *< attained to the presidency >* — **at-tain'a-ble/i-ty**, **at-tain'a-ble-ness** *n.* — **at-tain'a-ble** *adj.*

at-tain-der (ä-tän'dər) *n.* [ME *attaindre*, conviction *< OFr. atteindre*, to convict, affect. — see **ATTAIN**.] Law. 1. The loss of all civil rights legally consequent to a death sentence or to outlawry, esp. for treason. 2. Archaic. Dishonor.

at-tain-ment (ä-tän'ment) *n.* 1. The act of attaining or condition of being attained. 2. Something attained.

at-taint (ä-tänt') *vt.* -**tainted**, -**taint-ing**, -**taints**. [ME *ataynten* *< OFr. atainre*, p.p. of *ataindre*, to affect. — see **ATTAIN**.] 1. Law. To condemn by a sentence of attainder. 2. Archaic. To disgrace.

3. Obs. To accuse. — *n.* 1. Attainder. 2. Archaic. A disgrace: stigma.

at-tar (ät'är) *n.* [Pers. *attar*, perfumed *< Ar. 'utūr*, pl. of 'itr, perfume.] A fragrant essential oil or perfume obtained from the petals of flowers, as roses.

at-tempt (ä-tēpt') *vt.* -**tempt-ed**, -**tempt-ing**, -**tempts**. [ME *attempen* *< OFr. attemper* *< Lat. attemperare*: *ad-*, to + *temperare*, to test.] 1. To try to do, make, or achieve. 2. Archaic. To tempt. 3. Archaic. To attack in order to subdue. — *n.* 1. An effort or try. 2. An attack or assault, as on one's life. — **at-tempt'a-ble** *adj.* — **at-tempt'er** *n.*

at-tend (ä-tēnd') *v.* -**tend-ed**, -**tend-ing**, -**tends**. [ME *attenden* *< OFr. atendre* *< Lat. attendere*, to heed: *ad-*, to + *tendere*, to stretch.] — *vt.* 1. To be present at. 2. To accompany as a circumstance or follow as a result *< The announcement was attended by cheers >* 3. a. To accompany or wait on as an attendant or servant. b. To take care of (e.g., a patient). 4. To take charge of. 5. To listen to: HEED. 6. Archaic. To wait for: EXPECT. — *vi.* 1. To be present. 2. To apply or direct oneself *< attended to the difficulty >* 3. To pay attention: HEED. 4. To remain ready to serve: WAIT *< attend upon the guests >* 5. Obs. To delay or wait. — **at-tend'er** *n.*

at-ten-dance (ä-tēn'dəns) *n.* 1. The act of attending. 2. Those that attend a function.

at-tend-ant (ä-tēn'dənt) *n.* 1. One who attends or serves another. 2. One who is present. 3. One that accompanies: CONCOMITANT. — *adj.* Accompanying or following as a result *< the flu and attendant miseries >* — **at-tend'ant-ly** *adv.*

at-ten-tion (ä-tēn'shən) *n.* [ME *attencioun* *< Lat. attentio* *< at-tendere*, to heed: — see **ATTEND**.] 1. Close or careful observation or heed: mental concentration. 2. The ability or power to concentrate mentally. 3. Observant consideration: NOTICE *< Your complaint has come to my attention >* 4. Courtesy or considerate regard, as for others' feelings. 5. **attentions**. Acts of courtesy, consideration, or gallantry, esp. by a suitor. 6. A military posture, with the body erect, eyes to the front, arms at the sides, and heels together. — Used as a command. — **at-ten-tion-al** *adj.*

attention deficit disorder *n.* A childhood syndrome characterized by hyperactivity and short attention span.

attention key *n.* Computer Sci. A function key on terminals that interrupts program execution by the central processing unit.

ä pat: ä pay ät care: ä father ät pet: ät be hw which I pit
i tie tr pier ö pot: ö toe ö paw, for: oi noise öo took